

**Socio-economic Dimensions and Action Plan for Conservation of Coastal
Bioresources based on an Understanding of Anthropogenic Threats
Minicoy Island, Union Territory of Lakshadweep, India**

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The general objectives of why you did the socioeconomic monitoring:

Determine value/significance of the resources
Assess management effectiveness/ community benefits and impacts of management strategies
Adapt management strategies to local context
Identify threats and pressures
Facilitate stakeholder participation
Establish baseline of socioeconomic information

Topics addressed in your socioeconomic monitoring:

Alternative livelihoods
Resource use conflicts
Stakeholder participation in management
Tourism issues
Fisheries issues
Traditional uses
Land-based threats
Poverty alleviation
Local perceptions of management

Management question(s) you were addressing:

1. We looked at Resource governance – Customary Traditions in Reef and lagoon Management V/s Government Laws.
2. Stakeholder issues – How the islanders interact with the reef, resource dependencies.
3. And the role of the stakeholders in management if any?

Socioeconomic indicators you assessed:

- Island Profile – use of local terminology for describing the island and coral reef ecosystem.
- Reef Use patterns, Traditional Fishing, Gleaning, commercial fishing, tourism.
- Traditional knowledge
- Resource Governance
- Island demography
- Community Services
- Market Attributes extractive and non extractive

Methods you used (e.g. household interviews, key informant interviews, etc):

- Observation, Transect, FGD, Semi structured Interviews at the Household and level and with key informants, questionnaire survey.
- Visualisation Techniques Resource mapping, seasonal calendar, Ranking

Total cost of the study (optional): US \$ 6,000/project

Time it took to conduct: 3 field visits of 3 weeks each over a one year to complete the Socio economic assessment and hold validation meeting with the village community.

Number of people on the study team: 18

How the coastal managers and other stakeholders were engaged in planning, implementation and reporting results:

This project is focused on raising citizen's awareness in coral reef conservation and management. Volunteers were invited from the Island and they participated in a 2 day orientation workshop in data collection. The interested members formed a team to collect the data on select parameters on resource dependencies.

***The most important results, particularly unexpected findings:**

Key learnings 2003-2004:

1. Insensitivity to Minicoy traditions and customary laws with reference with land, reef and lagoon use has caused unhappiness to the native population.
2. Notifications banning the collection and use of reef resources such as associated fish sp and mollusks has virtually criminalized the reef depended subsistence fishers and gleaners.
3. Other Islanders and people posted in Minicoy on duty compete with the locals for natural resources.
4. Employment on ships, government jobs, tuna fishing and private enterprise are the main sources of Income.

*** How the socioeconomic information has been used to improve coastal management. Please be specific. This information is particularly important because it will be used to demonstrate to potential users and donor organizations the benefits of conduct socioeconomic monitoring.**

So far we have prepared reports on the Socio-economic data collected and made them available to the Lakshadweep Administration and various concerned departments to make use of for management planning.

This being a citizen's initiative one has to work harder on being made visible. We feel it might generate more awareness if the key learning's are disseminated to the Lakshadweep public using the local media.

Lead contact for further information (name, role in the socioeconomic monitoring, organization, contact e-mail & phone):

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Website for the project and/or socioeconomic study: Nil